

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-12 ADP-00 PRS-01 H-02 CIAE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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BEIRUT ALSO POUCH BAGHDAD
KUWAIT ALSO POUCH SANAA

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS PARTIAL
EXCERPT FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING
APRIL 26, 1973:

Q. IT HAS BEEN SOME TIME SINCE THE TRAGIC EVENTS IN KHAR-
TOUM. IS THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT STILL SATISFIED THAT
THE SUDANESE AUTHORITIES PLAN TO PROSECUTE THE MEN INVOLVED?

A. I DON'T KNOW WHERE THE JUDICIAL INVESTIGATION STANDS.
I WOULD HAVE TO CHECK BEFORE I ASSAYED AN ANSWER.

Q. CHARLES, THERE'S A REPORT IN AN ISRAELI PAPER TODAY THAT
THE UNITED STATES TURNED OVER TO THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT
RECONNAISSANCE PHOTOGRAPHS OF EGYPT WHICH ESTABLISHED THE
TRANSFER OF LIBYAN PLANES TO EGYPT.

A. THAT'S NOT TRUE.

Q. HAVE THE ISRAELIS PROVIDED PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE TO THE
UNITED STATES?

A. I DON'T KNOW. I'LL LOOK INTO THAT.

Q. WHAT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING OF THE STATE OF THESE
LIBYAN AIRCRAFT. DO WE HAVE ANY KNOWLEDGE THAT THEY HAVE
BEEN TURNED OVER TO EGYPT?

A. I WILL STILL MAINTAIN THIS WEEK, AS I DID HERE LAST
WEEK, THAT THIS IS A MATTER, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE AT LEAST,
WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT TO ADDRESS.

Q. DOES THAT MEAN THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT IS NOT
CONCERNED WITH THE MOVEMENT OF ARMS IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD?
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A. WE HAVE A CONTINUING CONCERN WITH RESPECT TO THE
MILITARY EQUILIBRIUM IN THE MIDDLE EAST. I'M SIMPLY SAYING
IN THIS RESPECT THAT THIS SEEMS TO ME TO BE SOMETHING THE
FRENCH GOVERNMENT SHOULD ADDRESS.

Q. AS A GENERAL QUESTION, DO WE PROVIDE INTELLIGENCE
ESTIMATES TO THE ISRAELIS?

A. THAT'S NOT SOMETHING I WOULD COMMENT ON HERE.

Q. IS YOUR RELUCTANCE TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS OVER THE PAST WEEK OR TEN DAYS BASED ON OFFICIAL CONVERSATIONS WITH THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT?

A. NO COMMENT.

Q. THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT, A FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN, TODAY ANNOUNCED THAT THEY HAVE RECEIVED NO EVIDENCE OF TRANSFER OF PLANES. DO YOU AGREE WITH THAT STATEMENT?

A. NO COMMENT.

Q. HAVE WE CONSULTED WITH THEM IN ANY WAY?

A. NO COMMENT. END QUOTE. ROGERS

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